

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01

SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01

SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /090 R

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STR - MR. YEUTTER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USDEL MTN GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 255956

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: US POSITION ON FURTHER MEETINGS ON IWC

PREPARATORY GROUP

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REF: THIGPEN - PLACKE TELECON

LONDON FOR THIGPEN AND PUTERBAUGH

1. IN REFERENCED TELECON, DEPARTMENT LEARNED THAT EC REP (EATON) IS INSTRUCTED TO REFUSE TO AGREE, AT OCTOBER 29 MEETING OF IWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, TO SETTING ANY DATE FOR MEETING OF IWC PREP GROUP. DEPARTMENT FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT, IN VIEW OF EC POSITION, IWC EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILL PROPOSE AT OUTSET OF DISCUSSION THAT HE BE PERMITTED TO CONVENE PREP GROUP AT A TIME TO BE DETERMINED IN CONSULTATION WITH PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS.

2. IN RESPONDING TO EXEC SEC PROPOSAL, US DEL TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SHOULD, IF POSSIBLE, SPEAK FIRST TO EXPRESS CONCURRENCE WITH THIS PROCEDURE AND CONFIDENCE IN EXEC. SEC. US DEL SHOULD THEN EMPHASIZE URGENCY WITH WHICH WE VIEW NEED TO DEVELOP A DEPENDABLE

MEANS FOR DEALING WITH GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY PROBLEM. US STRESSED THIS URGENCY IN INTRODUCING ITS PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED SYSTEM OF NATIONAL GRAIN RESERVES AT SEPTEMBER PREP GROUP MEETING. US RECOGNIZES THAT RESERVES SYSTEM MAY BE ONLY ONE ELEMENT TO BE NEGOTIATED IN A NEW INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT, BUT WE CONSIDER IT CRITICAL IN RESPONDING TO HOPES AROUSED AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. US HAS REPEATEDLY CALLED UPON OTHERS TO COME FORWARD WITH THEIR PROPOSALS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT AND HOPES THEY MAY YET DO SO.

3. IF EC, AS EXPECTED, DECLINES TO AGREE TO SET DATE FOR NEXT PREP GROUP MEETING, US DEL SHOULD STATE THAT US REGARDS ANY TACTIC WHICH DELAYS THE BEGINNING OF ACTUAL NEGOTIATIONS ADDRESSING THE FOOD SECURITY ISSUE AS CONTRARY TO THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND POSITIONS TAKEN AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE BY ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE CURRENT DISCUSSIONS. THE UNITED STATES, THEREFORE, STRONGLY URGES ALL PARTICIPANTS TO ENGAGE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN FURTHER WORK OF THE PREP GROUP SO THAT IT MAY REPORT POSITIVELY TO THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE IWC. THE US HOPES THAT OTHERS WILL AGREE
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TO CONVENE A MEETING OF THE PREP GROUP FOR NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 1 AND MORNING OF DEC. 2, WITH THE REGULAR COUNCIL SESSION TO FOLLOW.

4. LONDON SHOULD REPORT RESULTS OF DISCUSSION ON FURTHER PREP GROUP MEETINGS AS SOON AS COMPLETED FOR USEC BRUSSELS AND DEPARTMENT ACTION.

5. FOR USEC BRUSSELS. YOU SHOULD CONTACT APPROPRIATE EC COMMISSIONERS SOONEST TO REITERATE, BY DRAWING ON THE ABOVE, IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WORLD FOOD SECURITY. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT, AT THIS JUNCTURE, IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT EC IS OPPOSING MEANINGFUL WORK ON FOOD SECURITY BECAUSE OF ITS TACTICAL OBJECTIVES IN THE MTN. THIS RECORD IS LIKELY TO BE VIEWED SIMILARLY, ESPECIALLY BY LDC'S IN OTHER FORUMS WHERE FOOD SECURITY ISSUE IS DISCUSSED.

US IS AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND EC CONCERNS. WE HAVE REPEATEDLY ASSURED EC OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE UP RESULTS OF IWC WORK IN LONDON IN MTN. AT PRESENT, THERE ARE NO RESULTS, AND EC SEEMS TO BE BLOCKING FURTHER PROGRESS. IF THIS IS EC RESPONSE TO US

REFUSAL TO BE DRAWN INTO CONCURRENT DISCUSSION IN MTN OF RESERVES PROPOSAL IT HAS INTRODUCED INTO IWC PREP GROUP, THEN US CAN ONLY REITERATE RESPONSE GIVEN DIR. GEN. RABOT DURING HIS SEPTEMBER VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHEN HE RAISED THIS MATTER IN MEETING WITH DEP ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ (STATE) AMB YEUTTER (STR) AND ASST SEC BELL (USDA). US WAS PREPARED (AND DID) PROVIDE ITS PROPOSAL TO GATT SECRETARIATE FOR INFORMATION OF MTN PARTICIPANTS. IT DOES NOT AGREE THAT SIMULTANEOUS DISCUSSION OF GRAIN RESERVES PROPOSAL IN TWO FORUMS IS USEFUL WAY TO PROCEED, ESPECIALLY WHEN USSR -- PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF GRAIN TRADE INSTABILITY -- IS NOT PARTICIPATING IN MTN.

US IS ANXIOUS TO PURSUE NEGOTIATING GRAIN RESERVE SYSTEM WHICH ADDRESSES WORLD FOOD SECURITY PROBLEM. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE MOST EFFICIENT FORUM TO BE IWC. IF WE
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CANNOT MAKE PROGRESS THERE, WE CAN EXPECT LDC IMPORTERS TO ASSERT A LARGER ROLE IN THIS ISSUE IN OTHER FORUMS, ESPECIALLY WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND FAO. WE ARE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS EVENTUALITY, BUT EC SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ITS DETERMINATION TO SUBORDINATE DEALING WITH AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE FOOD PROBLEM TO TACTICAL AIMS IN THE MTN COULD HAVE RAMIFICATION BEYOND THIS ISSUE.

6. FYI. IN THE VIEW OF WASHINGTON AGENCIES, EC INSISTENCE THAT US GRAIN RESERVES PROPOSAL BE SUBSTANTIVELY DISCUSSED IN MTN GRAINS GROUP IS A DEVICE BY WHICH IT HOPES TO MAKE THE TRANSITION FROM DISCUSSION OF GRAIN RESERVES FOR FOOD SECURITY TO ITS CONCEPT OF A BUFFER STOCK FOR PRICE STABILIZATION. WE ARE ENGAGING EC IN DIALOGUE ON PROPOSAL FOR A COMMODITY AGREEMENT ON GRAINS IT HAS

TABLED IN MTN. HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SEE US
GRAIN RESERVES INITIATE USED AS A SPRINGBOARD BY THE EC
TO GAIN A TACTICAL ADVANTAGE FOR ITS APPROACH TO GRAIN
TRADE PROBLEMS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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